

BOOK REVIEW

DIE GATTUNGEN DER RHODOPHYCEEN. By Harald Kylin, late Professor of Botany in the University of Lund, Sweden. Edited by Elsa Kylin. C. W. K. Gleerup, Lund, Sweden. In paper cover Sw.crowns 125, cloth binding Sw.crowns 133.

All marine algologists will welcome the appearance of the late Professor Kylin's long awaited work on the Rhodophyceae. Originally written at the request of the publishers of Engler-Prantl's "Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" to replace the 50-year-old section of the Red Algae in the second edition of that work, the war and its aftermath made this impossible and Professor Kylin decided to publish it as a separate work, in part to supersede his earlier "Anatomie der Rhodophyceen", of which all the unsold copies had been destroyed during the war.

The present work embodies most of the subject matter of the earlier one with many additions and emendations from later works of leading algologists as well as the results of Kylin's own researches. The main part of the work was completed before 1945 but resulting from his last revision, Professor Kylin realized that more was still needed. He therefore planned a Supplement for which he made copious notes, but before this could be completed he died in December 1949. On Mme. Kylin, who throughout the work had acted as his assistant, devolved the onerous task of completing this supplement and of bringing up to date the final section, bibliography and index.

The table of contents in itself constitutes a valuable introduction to the modern systematic arrangement of the Rhodophyceae, for which algology is indebted mainly to Professor Kylin's own work. A general survey of the group as a whole—structure, cytology, physiology, distribution, etc.—is followed by a systematic account of the various orders and their sub-divisions, the genera included in each family are analysed and in many cases one or two of the main species of the genus are named.

The format of the work is most pleasing—the print clear, the many figures, as always in Kylin's works, beautifully executed and reproduced. Not the least pleasing feature is the dust cover with its beautiful line-drawing of the apex of *Georgiella confluens*.

The task of editing the work has been a difficult and heavy one and Madame Kylin is to be congratulated on the way she has performed her task.

M. A. Pocock.